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For Immediate Release
2007AE0009-000154
Feb. 21, 2007

Ministry of Advanced Education

NEW THEATRE MINOR DEGREE OFFERED AT MALASPINA

NANAIMO – A new bachelor of arts degree with a minor in theatre will be offered at Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo, expanding opportunities for students pursuing a career in the performing arts, Nanaimo-Parksville MLA Ron Cantelon announced today.

"Malaspina University-College has a reputation for providing quality educational programs, and they are continuing this trend with the introduction of the new theatre minor program," said Cantelon. "This new program will allow students pursuing opportunities in performing arts to do so in their own community."

The new minor program will provide students with the fundamentals of theatre, including acting, directing, production and management. It will build on the theatre programs already offered at Malaspina, providing students with a solid foundation in performing arts.

Malaspina currently offers a two-year technical theatre diploma, which is intended to meet the demand for trained theatre technicians. It has also offered for years the first two years of a university transfer program in theatre.

"Strong new academic programs are providing quality education and more choice for our students," said Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell, who approved the degree. "We are providing greater access to a whole range of exciting career opportunities by expanding the programs offered at our public post-secondary institutions."

Theatre students who have finished the two-year diploma can continue their studies at Malaspina and complete an arts degree. As well, students who are enrolled in the first two years of the university transfer program can now remain at Malaspina to complete a degree with a bachelor of arts, minor in theatre.

"We are excited to offer this new program in our community," said Malaspina University-College president Ralph Nilson. "Our goal is to build on our existing two-year technician program and allow students to move into the four-year degree option as a B.A. minor."

New degrees at public and private post-secondary institutions in the province must meet the established criteria under B.C.'s degree quality assessment process, including a 30-day peer-review period for degrees proposed by public post-secondary institutions, on which the public is also invited to comment.

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Since 2003, more than 100 undergraduate and graduate degrees have been approved. B.C. is improving its competitiveness and productivity through education and skills training, part of government's Pacific Leadership Agenda.

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